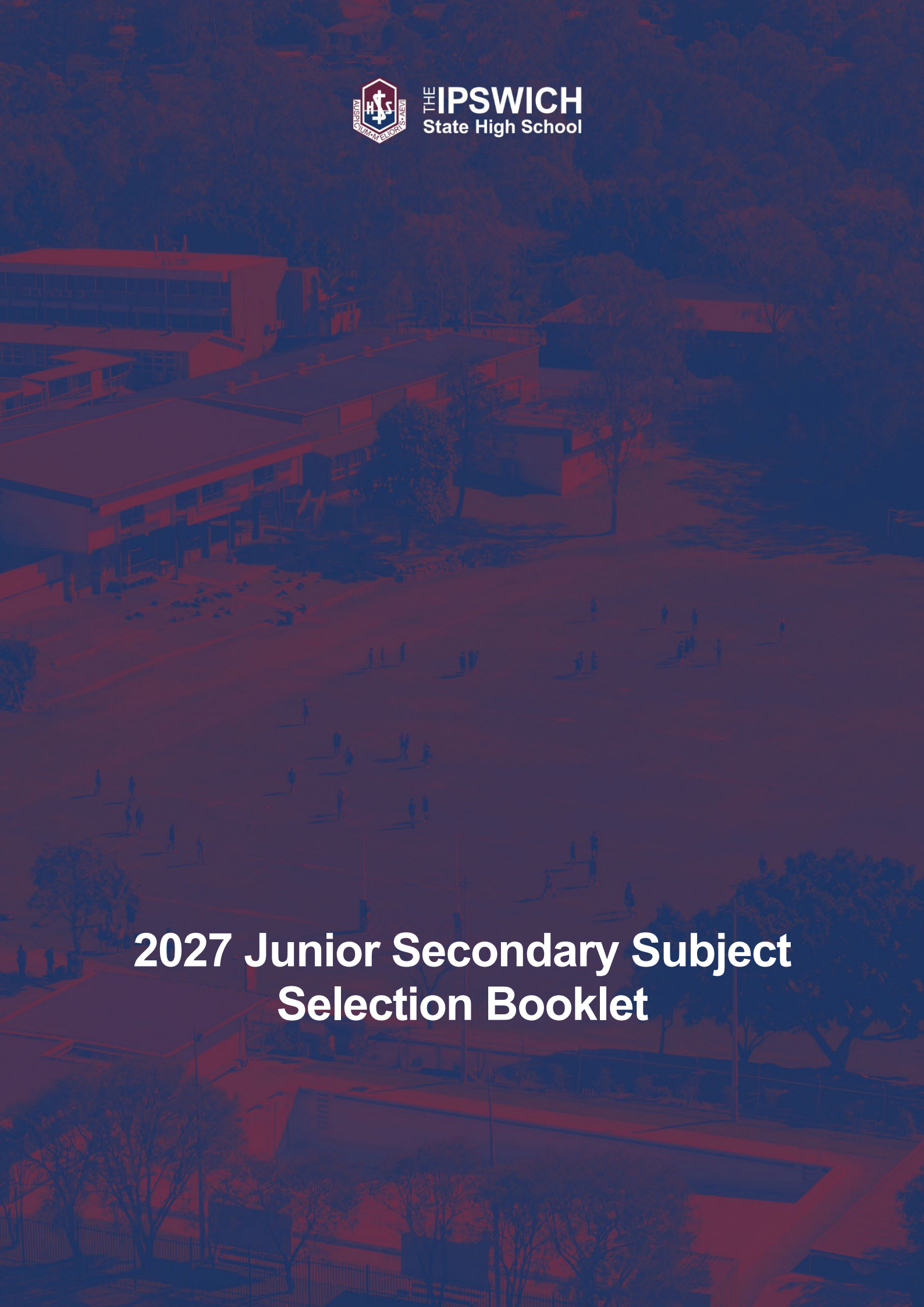
THE IPSWICH State High School



2027 Junior Secondary Subject Selection Booklet

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Principal's Message

Everyone Belongs at Ipswich State High School.

At Ipswich SHS we hold a steadfast commitment to our core values that shape every facet of our institution: inclusion, well-being, academic integrity, and preparation for entering the workforce.

We believe that diversity is a strength, and every individual who walks through our doors is an essential part of our school community. Our commitment to inclusion ensures that each student is respected, valued, and provided with an environment in which they can flourish academically, socially, and emotionally.

The well-being of our students is of paramount importance. We understand that a supportive and nurturing atmosphere is fundamental to effective learning. Our dedicated well-being programs and student support services are designed to address the holistic needs of our students, promoting both mental and emotional health.

Upholding the principles of respect and responsibility are integral to educational success at Ipswich State High School. Our students are encouraged to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity, both in their studies and in their interactions with peers and educators.

Education is not solely about acquiring knowledge; it is also about developing skills and competencies that prepare students for success beyond the classroom. Our curriculum is designed to equip students with the critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration skills that are essential in today's rapidly changing world. We are dedicated to nurturing graduates who are not only academically capable but also well-prepared for their future careers.

As you navigate this guide, consider the enduring impact of the choices students make during these formative years. Each subject selection is a stepping stone toward your student's academic growth. At Ipswich State High School, we are here to guide, support, and challenge students as they embark on this exciting journey of self-discovery and learning.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's educational journey. I encourage you to explore the opportunities within these pages and to approach this process with thoughtfulness and enthusiasm

Kathryn Todd

Executive Principal

Ipswich State High School

Junior Secondary Vision

At Ipswich State High School, we believe that every junior secondary student belongs, grows and achieves—building the knowledge, confidence and responsibility to shape their future.

Years 7 to 9 are a formative stage in each student's educational journey. These years establish strong foundations for learning, build positive relationships and develop the skills students need to succeed in senior secondary schooling and beyond.

Our curriculum, guided by the Australian Curriculum, provides a broad range of learning experiences that strengthen literacy, numeracy, critical thinking and creativity. Through explicit teaching, appropriate challenge and targeted support, we help students build confidence, explore their interests and achieve their potential.

We are committed to an inclusive learning environment where every student feels connected, supported and ready to learn. Our teachers work with students to develop effective learning habits, respectful relationships and increasing independence, supported by consistent expectations across the school.

Junior Secondary approach is guided by the Department of Education's Junior Secondary Engagement Conceptual Framework, which aims to enhance student engagement, learning, and wellbeing as students transition into and progress through these important years. The framework is built on four key principles:

- Connection and Belonging
- Student Voice and Agency
- Positive and Confident Transitions
- Innovative and Responsive Learning Environments

The diversity of subjects offered in junior secondary allows students to discover their strengths and explore future pathways. This guide supports students and families to make informed subject choices that encourage engagement, achievement and continued growth.

Together, we aim to develop confident learners who take responsibility for their learning, contribute positively to their community and approach the future with purpose - ready for their Future, Right Here, Right Now.

Course Organisation: Junior Secondary School (Years 7, 8, 9)

In Years 7, 8 & 9 students will study of a variety of core subjects and electives. This is designed to fulfill the mandatory requirements of the Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Framework while still allowing flexibility for our students to select subjects in areas where they have an established interest or passion. We believe that engagement is the key to success, and as such, we invite our students to make elective subject choices which foster their passions and allow them to take ownership over their interests in an academic and practical way.

Year 7 Course Organisation

Year 7 marks the beginning of each student's secondary school journey. It is a year of transition, where students build on their primary school learning while adjusting to the routines and opportunities of high school. The Year 7 course provides a broad foundation across all learning areas, ensuring students experience a balance of core subjects and specialist subjects. This structure allows students to strengthen essential skills in literacy, numeracy, and critical thinking, while also exploring new areas such as The Arts, Technology, and Languages

Year 7 learning at Ipswich SHS is designed to:

- Support a smooth transition into secondary schooling
- Build confidence, independence, and strong study habits
- Provide exposure to a wide range of subjects to spark interests and identify strengths
- Establish the foundation knowledge and skills needed for success in later years

Subject	Lessons/week (70 minutes)	Minutes/ week	Curriculum Focus
English	3	210	Literacy, communication, reading and writing
Mathematics	3	210	Number, algebra, measurement, geometry, statistics and probability
Science	3	210	Biology, chemistry, physics, earth and space sciences
History (Semester)	3	210	History
Health & Physical Education (Semester)	3	210	Health, wellbeing, physical activity, sport and movement
Humanities/Language Semester Rotation	3	210	Civics & Citizenship, Economics & Business, Geography and Language (Japanese or Auslan)
The Arts: (elective Dance, Drama, Media Studies, Music or Visual Art	3	210	One Semester of The Arts
Technology: (elective) Design & Technology, Digital Technology or Food and Fibre	3	210	One Semester of Technology
Ipswich Wellbeing Program or Excellence Programs: Dance, Rugby League, STEM	2	140	

Year 8 Course Organisation

Year 8 builds on the foundations of Year 7 while giving students greater independence in their learning. Students are encouraged to choose two different elective subjects, allowing them to explore areas of interest while continuing with the core curriculum of English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, and Health and Physical Education.

This balance of core and elective learning helps students consolidate essential skills, trial new subjects, and begin shaping the pathways they will further develop in Year 9 and beyond.

Subject	Lessons/week (70 minutes)	Minutes/ week	Curriculum Focus
English	3	210	Literacy, communication, reading and writing
Mathematics	3	210	Number, algebra, measurement, geometry, statistics and probability
Science	3	210	Biology, chemistry, physics, earth and space sciences
History (Semester)	3	210	History
Health & Physical Education (Semester)	3	210	Health, wellbeing, physical activity, sport and movement
Humanities/Language Semester Rotation	3	210	Civics & Citizenship, Economics & Business, Geography and Language (Japanese or Auslan)
The Arts: (elective) Dance, Drama, Media Studies, Music or Visual Art	3	210	One Semester of The Arts
Technology: (elective Design & Technology, Digital Technology or Food and Fibre	3	210	One Semester of Technology
Ipswich Wellbeing Program or Excellence Programs: Dance, Rugby League, STEM	2	210	

Year 9 Course Organisation

Year 9 is an important preparation year for the Senior Phase of Learning (Years 10–12).

Students study the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, History/Geography, and Health and Physical Education, and choose two electives per semester. Electives allow students to explore areas of interest, trial potential pathways, and develop skills that may be important for future study and career choices. When selecting electives, students should consider their strengths, interests, and the prerequisites for senior subjects. In Year 9, students build on the foundations of Years 7 and 8 while developing new knowledge and skills to support success in their senior studies and beyond.

Subject	Lessons/week (70 minutes)	Minutes/ week	Curriculum Focus
English	3	210	Literacy, communication, reading and writing across genres
Mathematics	3	210	Number, algebra, measurement, geometry, statistics and probability
Science	3	210	Biology, chemistry, physics, earth and space sciences
Ipswich Wellbeing Program	2	140	Career Education, Study skills, Healthy Habits, Relationships and personal wellbeing
History (Semester)	3	210	History
Health & Physical Education (Semester)	3	210	Health, wellbeing, physical activity, sport and movement
Semester Elective Rotations Geography Civic and Citizenship Economics and Business Japanese/Auslan Design and Technology Digital Technology Food Specializations Dance Drama Film & TV Visual Art Music Rugby League excellence (year)	3	210	The Arts and Technology Excellence Programs

Top 5 Tips For Subject Selection Success

Choosing subjects in Junior Secondary is an exciting step in shaping your learning journey. At Ipswich State High School, we want every student to feel supported, confident, and inspired when making these decisions.

Here are our top five tips:

Follow Your Interests

Choose subjects that spark your curiosity and excite you. When you enjoy what you're learning, you're more motivated and successful.

Play to Your Strengths

Think about the areas where you feel confident or have received positive feedback. Building on your strengths can help set you up for future success.

Keep an Open Mind

Junior Secondary is about exploring. Don't be afraid to try something new, you may discover talents or passions you didn't know you had.

Think About the Future

It's never too early to start considering pathways. Ask yourself how your choices could connect to senior subjects, further study, or careers you're interested in.

Talk It Through

You don't have to make these choices alone. Discuss your options with your family, teachers, and support staff. Their guidance can help you make informed and confident decisions.

Mathematics

(Faculty: Mathematics, Contact: Jason Meiring)

Mathematics at Ipswich State High School is designed to build strong numeracy skills and prepare students for everyday life, further learning, and a wide range of career pathways. Through the Australian Curriculum, students in Years 7 to 9 study topics to develop confident problem-solvers who can apply mathematical thinking to real-world situations and use technology to support and extend their learning.

Program Aims

The Junior Mathematics program aims to help students:

- Become confident and creative users of mathematics
- Apply reasoning and problem-solving skills in varied contexts
- Use technology to explore, model, and represent ideas
- Recognise the relevance of mathematics in daily life

Learning Approach

Students engage in:

- Practical, real-life maths applications
- Use of digital tools to support learning and problem-solving
- Opportunities to work independently and collaboratively

Pathways

Junior Mathematics provides the foundation for senior subjects such as General Mathematics, Mathematical Methods, and Specialist Mathematics, as well as Applied Mathematics pathways. It supports diverse careers and a solid grounding in mathematics opens doors to future study and employment opportunities across many industries in:

- Business, Finance, and Commerce
- Information Technology and Engineering
- Science and Education

Structure may include

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Unit 1: Number Unit 2: Geometry Unit 3: Algebra Unit 4: Probability & Statistics	Unit 1: Number Unit 2: Measurement Unit 3: Geometry Unit 4: Rates and Ratios Unit 5: Algebra Unit 6: Linear equations Unit 7: Probability & Statistics	Unit 1: Measurement & Trigonometry Unit 2: Financial maths and Linear Equations Unit 3: Data, number and Algebra Unit 4: Ratio and Scale & probability

English

(Faculty: English, Contact: Sam Jaswinsky)

English at Ipswich State High School helps students become confident communicators, creative thinkers, and active, informed citizens. Through the Australian Curriculum, students in Years 7 to 9 engage with a wide range of spoken, written, and multimodal texts to build essential skills for learning, personal growth, and future pathways. Our program encourages students to explore ideas, reflect on different perspectives, and express themselves clearly and effectively in a variety of contexts.

Program Aims

The Junior English program aims to help students:

- Read, write, speak, view, and listen with confidence and purpose
- Understand and use language effectively in different contexts
- Analyse and create texts for varied audiences and purposes
- Reflect on ideas and experiences through literature

Learning Approach

Students study novels, plays, films, media, and poetry. They develop skills in:

- Creative, persuasive, and analytical writing
- Speaking, presenting, and participating in discussions
- Analysing text structures, language features, and author choices
- Responding critically and thoughtfully to themes and issues

Learning is supported through class discussions, critical reading, writing workshops, and multimodal tasks.

Pathways

Junior English provides the foundation for senior subjects

- Media, Journalism, and Creative Industries
- Law, Politics, and Public Service
- Education, Business, and Communications

A strong foundation in English underpins success in all senior subjects and equips students with the skills to participate actively, ethically, and effectively in a changing world.

Structure may include

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Unit 1: Writing exam	Unit 1: Imaginative & informative writing	Unit 1: Imaginative writing
Unit 2: Imaginative writing	Unit 2: Analytical writing	Unit 2: Analytical writing
Unit 3: Persuasive speech	Unit 3: Persuasive speech	Unit 3: Analytical writing
Unit 4: Informative writing	Unit 4: Imaginative writing	Unit 4: Persuasive speech

Science

(Faculty: Science, Contact: Rebecca Nicholson)

Science at Ipswich State High School encourages curiosity, critical thinking, and a deeper understanding of the world around us. Through the Australian Curriculum, students in Years 7 to 9 explore key scientific concepts, learn how science influences society, and develop practical skills through investigation and experimentation. Our program helps students make informed decisions about local, national and global issues, and provides the foundation for future studies or careers in science-related fields.

Program Aims

The Junior Science program aims to help students:

- Understand core concepts in biology, chemistry, physics, and earth sciences
- Develop scientific inquiry skills, including observation, questioning, and data analysis
- Apply knowledge to real-world contexts and environmental challenges
- Explore the role of science in society and everyday life
- Build confidence in using scientific language and processes

Learning Approach

Students participate in hands-on investigations and explore big ideas such as:

- The structure and function of living systems
- The properties and changes of matter
- Forces, motion, and energy transfer
- Interactions within ecosystems and Earth's systems
- Atomic structure and chemical reactions

Learning is supported by practical experiments, data collection, critical thinking tasks, and the use of digital technologies

Pathways

Junior Science provides the foundation for senior subjects including

- Year 10: Introduction to the General subjects (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology), and Applied Science (Introduction to Science in Practice & Aquatic Practices)
- Years 11–12: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology, Science in Practice, Aquatic Practices,

Science pathways support careers in fields such as:

- Medicine, Pharmacy, Veterinary Science
- Environmental and Marine Science
- Engineering, Technology, and Biotechnology
- Agriculture, Food Science, Conservation, and Ecotourism

A strong foundation in science helps students understand the world and prepares them for diverse education and career options.

Structure may include

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Unit 1: Introductory to the lab	Unit 1: Biology	Unit 1: Biology
Unit 2: Forces & simple machines	Unit 2: Physics	Unit 2: Chemistry
Unit 3: Chemistry	Unit 3: Chemistry	Unit 3: Earth Sciences
Unit 4: Earth Science	Unit 4: Earth Sciences	Unit 4: Physics
Unit 5: Biology		

Health and Physical Education

(Faculty: HPE, Contact: Gretchen Bohills)

The Australian curriculum expands students' knowledge, understanding and skills to help them achieve successful outcomes in classroom, leisure, social, movement and online situations. Students learn how to take positive action to enhance their own and others' health, safety and wellbeing. They do this as they examine the nature of their relationships and other factors that influence people's beliefs, attitudes, opportunities, decisions, behaviours and actions. Students demonstrate a range of help-seeking strategies that support them to access and evaluate health and physical activity information and services. At Ipswich SHS, all students study HPE for one semester.

A healthy, active population improves productivity and personal satisfaction, promotes pro-social behaviour and reduces the occurrence of chronic disease. Health and Physical Education teaches students how to enhance their health, safety and wellbeing and contribute to building healthy, safe and active communities.

Pathways

A course of study in Physical Education can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of exercise science, biomechanics, the allied health professions, psychology, teaching, sport journalism, sport marketing and management, sport promotion, sport development and coaching.

Objectives

The Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education, aims to ensure that students:

- refine a range of specialised knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to their health, safety, wellbeing, and movement competence and confidence
- develop specialised movement skills and understanding in a range of physical activity settings
- analyse how body control and coordination influence movement composition and performance and learn to transfer movement skills and concepts to a variety of physical activities explore the role that games and sports, outdoor recreation, lifelong physical activities, and rhythmic and expressive movement activities play in shaping cultures and identities
- reflect on and refine personal and social skills as they participate in a range of physical activities

Structure may include

Year 7 (Semester)	Year 8 (Semester)	Year 9 (Semester)
Unit 1: Theory: Getting to know you Prac: Swimming & Volleyball Unit 2: Theory: Friends First Prac: Passing & Catching	Unit 1: Theory: Sun Safety Prac: Swimming/Striking & Cultural Games Unit 2: Theory: Fitness programs Prac: Fitness and European handball	Unit 1: Theory: Identity & relationships Prac: Swimming/Lawn Games & Aerobics Unit 2: Theory: Risky behaviours Prac: Gaelic Football & Basketball

Humanities

(Faculty: Business, Humanities and Languages, Contact: Tony Flanagan Swan)

Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) at Ipswich State High School help students explore how people live, interact, and shape society — across time, cultures, and environments. Guided by the Australian Curriculum, students study History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship, and Economics and Business. These subjects help students understand the world around them and prepare them to be informed, thoughtful, and active citizens. Subjects are taught with both a local and global focus, helping students connect their learning to real-world issues and future challenges.

Program Aims

The Humanities program aims to help students:

- Develop a deeper understanding of people, places, events, systems, and cultures
- Build skills in research, critical thinking, and decision-making
- Communicate ideas clearly and effectively
- Explore current and historical issues from multiple perspectives
- Engage in respectful discussion and informed debate

Learning Approach

At Ipswich SHS, Humanities is taught through inquiry-based learning, encouraging students to ask questions, explore sources, and build evidence-based conclusions. Students learn to:

- Analyse historical and contemporary issues
- Interpret data and sources critically
- Examine environmental, social, and political systems
- Respect and explain different viewpoints

Pathways

A foundation in Humanities supports further study and future careers in:

- History, Law, Politics, and Economics
- Journalism, Media, and Writing
- Education, Psychology, and Social Sciences
- Business, Public Policy, and International Relations

The analytical, research, and communication skills developed in Humanities are highly valued across all industries — including science, health, and technology.

History

At Ipswich SHS, all students study History for one semester in Year 7, 8 and 9

Structure may include:

Year 7 (Semester)	Year 8 (Semester)	Year 9 (Semester)
Unit 1: Deep Time - Australian History Unit 2: The Ancient World - Egypt	Unit 1: Polynesian Expansion Asia Pacific Unit 2: Medieval Europe – Black Death	Unit 1: Modern World, Making of a Nation Unit 2: World War I

Humanities Rotations/Electives

At Ipswich SHS, all students in Year 7 and, 8 study one semester over the two years of the following Humanities subjects in addition to one semester of a language. In Year 9 the following Humanities subjects are options as electives and studied for one semester

Economics and Business

Year 7/8 (Semester)	Year 9 (Semester)
Unit 1: Business Basics Unit 2: Individual and Business Success	Unit 1: Financial Risk, Responsibilities and Rewards Unit 2: Australian Financial Sector

Geography

Year 7/8 (Semester)	Year 9 (Semester)
Unit 1: Place and Liveability Unit 2: Landforms and Landscape	Unit 1: Biomes and food security Unit 2: Interconnections

Civic and Citizenship

Year 7/8 (Semester)	Year 9 (Semester)
Unit 1: Government and democracy Unit 2: Civic Issues	Unit 1: Government Systems Unit 2: Australia's political landscape

Languages: Japanese and Auslan

Year 7/8 (Semester)	Year 9 (Semester)
Japanese Unit 1: Monster Story Telling Unit 2: Food	Japanese Unit 1: Culture and Traditions Unit 2: Shopping
Auslan Unit 1: Lexicons and Syntax Unit 2: Visual Vernacular	Auslan Unit1: Emergency Interpreting Unit 2: Story telling

The Arts

(Faculty: The Arts, Contact: Alison Hamilton)

All subject in The Arts faculty are electives and are studied for a semester.

Dance

In Dance offers students the opportunity to explore a range of dynamic styles including hip-hop, musical theatre, cultural dance, and contemporary dance. Students develop technical skills, creativity, and confidence while using movement to tell stories and express ideas. They also analyse and respond to dance works, deepening their understanding of dance as an art form. The program combines performance, choreography, collaboration, and reflection, fostering self-expression & a love for the arts.

Assessments may include:

- Choreography (Making)
- Performance tasks (Performing)
- Dance analysis (Responding)

Pathways

Dance prepares students for senior Dance studies and supports pathways into the creative industries, performance, choreography, and education.

Structure may include:

Year 7/8 (Semester)	Year 9 (Semester)
Unit 1: Dance from different times, places and culture Unit 2: Virtual Reality/ Popular Dance	Unit 1: Ballet Unit 2: Jazz and Hip Hop Unit 3: Street Dance Unit 4: Australian Dance

Drama

In Years 7 and 8, Drama empowers students to explore acting, storytelling, and performance. Students use voice, movement, and expression to bring characters and ideas to life through improvisation, play building, and creative performances. The program builds confidence, communication skills, and a love for the performing arts. The program also introduces students to the elements of theatre, stagecraft, and production roles. By Year 9, students take on more complex tasks including analytical writing, set and costume design, and physical theatre, providing a strong foundation for Year 10 and senior Drama.

Assessments may include:

- Performance tasks (acting, improvisation, play building)
- Design folio (set, costume, or production elements)
- Written or multimodal analysis of drama works

Pathways

Drama supports further study in the performing arts, film, television, and playwriting. It also develops transferable skills valued in creative industries, law, education, public relations, communication, and management.

Structure may include:

Year 7/8 (Semester)	Year 9 (Semester)
Unit 1: Taking Flight Unit 2: Taking the Stage	Unit 1: Performance Unit 2: Children's Theatre Unit 3: Australian Gothic Unit 4: Physical Comedy

Media Studies

In Media Studies students explore how films, photographs, animations and other media tell stories, communicate ideas and present different viewpoints. They discover media from different cultures, times and places and discuss how images, sound and storytelling influence an audience. Students use digital tools to plan and create their own media projects, building their skills and confidence as they progress. They learn to express their ideas creatively, represent others respectfully and share their work responsibly with an audience.

Assessments may include:

- Practical projects (e.g., video, digital artwork, photography)
- Design folios or portfolios
- Written or multimodal reflection tasks

Pathways

Prepares students for further study and careers in digital media, communications, film and television, advertising, journalism, and the creative industries.

Structure may include:

Year 7/8 (Semester)	Year 9 (Semester)
Unit 1: Children's Television Unit 2: Video Games	Unit 1: Photography Unit 2: Short Film Unit 3: Podcasts Unit 4: Mystery Crime Thrillers

Music

Students live in a world in which music has an important and pervasive presence. Whether actively engaging in music by listening, performing or composing, students have an individual experience of music. A study of music builds students' skills and understanding of the music around them. Learning in Music involves students making and responding to music independently, and with their classmates, teachers, communities and culture. They explore music as an art form through listening, composing and performing.

Assessments may include:

- Performance
- Composition
- Portfolios of work
- Written or multimodal reflection tasks

Pathways

A course of study in music can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of performance, composing, producing, creative industries, band and stage management, game and film industries and music therapy.

Structure may include:

Year 7/8 (Semester)	Year 9 (Semester)
Unit 1: Introduction to music performance Unit 2: Playing the blues	Unit 1: Musical design Unit 2: Musical composition Unit 3: Identity through music Unit 4: Creating our own music

Visual Art

Visual Art encourages students to experiment with materials and techniques to express ideas in creative and meaningful ways. Students explore painting, sculpture, ceramics, design, printmaking, and drawing, while learning how artists use elements, space, and concepts to shape meaning. Projects may include painting landscapes, building imaginative sculptures, designing futuristic environments, constructing clay forms, or creating lino prints.

Assessments may include:

- Practical projects in a variety of media (e.g., painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking)
- Visual art folio or design task
- Written or multimodal response analysing artworks

Pathways

Visual Art supports future study and employment in design, fine arts, craft, film and television, advertising, education, galleries, museums, and broader creative industries.

Structure may include:

Year 7/8 (Semester)	Year 9 (Semester)
Unit 1: Where do I belong? (drawing, painting & collage) Unit 2: Animation or Unit 1: Learning to control the elements – 2D mixed media Unit 2: Let's look at it from a different angle	Unit 1: Drawing Unit 2: Painting Unit 3: Mural Folio Unit 4: Artist Book

Technologies

(Faculty: Technologies, Contact: Kim Teale)

All subject in Technology faculty are electives and are studied for a semester.

Design & Technology

Design and Technology combines hands-on skills with design thinking to create solutions to real-world problems. Students work with a range of traditional and emerging technologies, developing skills in freehand and technical drawing, digital design (laser cutting and 3D printing), and production processes (woodwork and metal work).

Safety/Subject Requirements

- Enclosed non pervious (leather or synthetic leather uppers) footwear must be always worn (no exceptions)
- Safety glasses are to be always worn in the workshop
- All safety directions must be followed

Assessment may include:

- Design solutions (Products)
- Design folio with sketches and written work

Pathways

Supports future study and careers in engineering, construction, design, and architecture. In year 11 & 12, eligibility to Ipswich SHS Trade Training Centre, requires completion of this subject.

Structure may include:

Year 7 (Semester)	Year 8 (Semester)	Year 9 (Semester)
Unit 1: Introduction to the workshop with Cheese board and spatula Unit 2: Woodwork and 3D and laser printers	Unit 1: Introduction to the workshop with children's toy and dustpan Unit 2: Woodwork and Toy Truck	Unit 1: Introduction to Workshop, Woodworking and metal working skills Unit 2: Design project Unit 3: Woodworking and metal working skills Unit 4: Design project

Digital Technology

Digital Technologies develops skills in coding, design, and digital problem-solving. Students begin by learning the foundations of programming with Python, creating interactive HTML webpages, designing 3D models, and building simple 2D games. They explore how code, graphics, and user input combine to create engaging digital solutions, while applying design thinking to become innovative creators and critical users of digital systems.

In Year 9, students extend these skills by designing 3D games, coding for automation and control, and working with physical computing and robotics. Through hands-on projects, they bring digital systems to life — building smart devices, sensors, and robotic solutions that respond to real-world needs. Collaboration and design-thinking are central as students prototype and refine their ideas,

Assessment

Coding project or digital game

Design task such as a website, 3D models, or smart device

Written or multimodal response

Pathways

Supports further study in STEM and careers in computer science, IT, telecommunications, design, game development, software engineering, and robotics.

Structure may include:

Year 7 (Semester)	Year 8 (Semester)	Year 9 (Semester)
Unit 1: Websites Unit 2: Data and spreadsheets	Unit 1: Cyber Security Unit 2: JavaScript	Unit 1: Students work with Blender to create an animation Unit 2: Students explore 3D Game Design

Food and Fibre/Food Specialisations

(Faculty: HPE, Contact: Gretchen Bohills)

Food Technology develops the knowledge, skills, and attitudes students need to make informed decisions about food and nutrition. Students learn to prepare healthy meals safely and sustainably, while exploring the influences that shape food choices in today's world. Learning is drawn from the Design Technology area of the Australian Curriculum and focuses on both practical cooking skills and understanding nutrition.

Safety/Subject Requirements

- Some Ingredients are provided through the Subject Fee
- Active participation in all practical activities is required
- Students must wear fully enclosed leather shoes (no exceptions)
- Hair must be tied back and hygiene practices followed

Assessment

Culminating practical cooking activity

Written task such as an exam, assignment, or food journal

Pathways

Food Technology provides a foundation for further study and employment in health science, hospitality, and childcare.

Structure may include:

Year 7 (Semester)	Year 8 (Semester)	Year 9 (Semester)
Food and Fibre	Food and Fibre	Food Specialisations
Unit 1: In the Bag (textiles)	Unit 1L: Upcycling (textiles)	Unit 1: Nutrition and food labels
Unit 2: Healthy Food (food)	Unit 2: Meal planning (food)	Unit 2: Food preservation

Excellence Programs

High-Performance Dance

(Faculty: The Arts, Contact: Alison Hamilton)

Our Dance Excellence program provides students with various opportunities, tailored to their goals and experience. We regularly connect with industry professionals and local businesses to learn with and from successful artists. We also facilitate a number of workshops with local dance businesses and choreographers. Our students compete locally, across Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

We continue to provide opportunities for all students regardless of financial status or dance experience and maintain high expectations for all students. We are an inclusive program that supports students of all abilities and experience.

Students develop their dance performance, technical skills as well as their discipline and commitment to their team through performance opportunities locally.

Conditions of Enrolment:

Performance trial

- Wear the appropriate school uniform at all times
- Represent ISHS with pride, upholding the school core values of Respect and Responsibility
- Adhere to the ISHS Student Code of Conduct
- Be conscientious in all studies, fulfilling all course requirements including homework and assessments.

Fee:

- Eisteddfod and costume fees

Structure may include:

Year 7 & 8
Unit 1: Doctors of Dance
Unit 2: In the Spotlight
Unit 3: Fuelling Fit Bodies
Unit 4: Recipes of Dance

Rugby League Excellence

(Faculty: HPE, Contact: Dan Hobden)

The Rugby League Program of Excellence has been created to provide an elite pathway for rugby league players to develop their skills whilst at school. Students undertaking this program will experience a highly structured sports specific program scaffolding knowledge and skills from Year 7 to Year 12.

Students explore and apply rugby league skills and strategies in drills, games and theoretical situations. Students also apply personal and social skills to promote safety, fair play and inclusivity.

Ipswich State High School offers separate boys' and girls' Rugby League programs, each led by dedicated coaches.

Students will be expected to uphold at least satisfactory levels of effort and behaviour in order to play and stay within the subject as well as an attendance rate of at least 85% or above. Students may also be expected to attend out-side of class hours sessions, such as lunchtime or before school gym sessions.

Conditions of Enrolment:

Performance trial

Represent ISHS with pride, upholding the school core values of Respect and Responsibility

Adhere to the ISHS Student Code of Conduct

Be conscientious in all studies, fulfilling all course requirements including homework and assessments.

Fee:

Cost is $220.00 per year which includes training kit and apparel. Our program is highly subsidised by our sponsors.

STEM

(Faculty: Cross Faculty, Contact: Rebecca Nicholson)

he STEM Excellence Program is offered to selected students in Years 7 and 8, providing opportunities to extend their learning through challenging, real-world experiences.

This program integrates science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through inquiry-based projects that promote problem-solving, creativity, and critical thinking. Students engage in hands-on investigations and collaborative design tasks, applying their learning to authentic contexts while developing key skills in collaboration, communication, resilience, and analytical thinking.

Conditions of Enrolment:

Demonstrate an interest in STEM and a willingness to participate in practical activities, investigations and problem-solving.

Provide a recent school report showing achievement and effort in Mathematics and Science.

Complete the program's application and any selection activities.

Demonstrate the ability to work independently and cooperatively with others.

Adhere to the ISHS Student Code of Conduct

Fee:

Cost is $0 per year

Structure may include and students will rotate through these units. The order in which students complete the units will depend on the rotation schedule:

Year 7	Year 8
Unit 1: Chemistry	Unit 1: Biology
Unit 2: Robotics	Unit 2: Game Design
Unit 3: Wiring 12v Systems	Unit 3: Precision Framing
Unit 4: Passion Based Project	Unit 4: Passion Based Project

Ipswich Wellbeing Program

In Years 7 and 8, students who are not participating in an Excellence Program will participate in the Ipswich Wellbeing Program (IWP). This program embeds social and emotional learning through creative, practical and interest-based activities.

The program develops the seven Australian Curriculum general capabilities, equipping students with the knowledge, skills, behaviours and dispositions to live, learn and work successfully:

- Critical and Creative Thinking
- Digital Literacy
- Ethical Understanding
- Intercultural Understanding
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Personal and Social Capability.

A key focus is Personal and Social Capability, which helps students understand themselves and others, build positive relationships and manage their emotions and behaviours. Students develop skills in collaboration, empathy, goal setting and conflict resolution, strengthening their confidence and sense of belonging.

Through engaging learning experiences, students learn to respond to challenges, consider different perspectives and make responsible decisions. These skills support their wellbeing and help them participate confidently in school and the wider community. Identified students may also participate in a range of our Targeting Skill interventions, including

- Reading
- Quicksmart
- Rock and Water
- RAGE
- Strength
- Shine
- Deadly Choices
- BGAC First Nations boys program
- MPI Good Start